

§ 12.02-27 Requirements for renewal of a merchant mariner's document.

(a) *General.* Except as provided in paragraph (g) of this section, an applicant for renewal of a merchant mariner's document shall establish possession of all of the necessary qualifications before a merchant mariner's document is issued.

(1) Each application must be on a Coast Guard furnished form and accompanied by the evaluation fee established in § 12.02-18. An approved application is valid for 12 months.

(2) The applicant may apply in person at any Regional Examination Center listed in § 12.01-7 or may renew the merchant mariner's document by mail under paragraph (e)(3) of this section.

(3) The applicant shall submit the original or a photocopy of the merchant mariner's document to be renewed. A photocopy must include the front and back of the merchant mariner's document. If requested, the old document will be returned to the applicant.

(4) The expiration date of a merchant mariner's document that was issued without an expiration date is determined in accordance with § 12.02-29.

(5) Each applicant shall comply with § 12.02-09(b)(1) of this part.

(b) *Fitness.* No merchant mariner's document will be renewed if it has been suspended without probation or revoked as a result of action under part 5 of this chapter, or facts which would render a renewal improper have come to the attention of the Coast Guard.

(c) *Professional requirements.* (1) In order to renew a merchant mariner's document endorsed with a qualified rating, the applicant shall comply with one of the following:

(i) Present evidence of at least 1 year of sea service during the past 5 years;

(ii) Pass a comprehensive, open-book exercise covering the general subject matter required by this part for the applicable endorsement or pass an open-book license exercise that covers the same subject matter required for the MMD endorsement;

(iii) Complete an approved refresher training course; or,

(iv) Present evidence of employment in a position closely related to the operation, construction, or repair of ves-

sels (either deck or engineer as appropriate for the endorsement) for at least 3 years during the past 5 years.

(2) There are no professional requirements for renewal of a merchant mariner's document that is not endorsed with any qualified ratings.

(d) *Physical requirements.* (1) An applicant for renewal of a merchant mariner's document endorsed with a qualified rating other than lifeboatman, shall submit a certification by a licensed physician or physician assistant that he or she is in good health and has no physical impairment or medical condition which would render him or her incompetent to perform the ordinary duties of that qualified rating(s). This certification must address visual acuity and hearing in addition to general physical condition, and must have been completed within the previous 12 months.

(2) If the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection has reason to believe that an applicant suffers from some physical impairment or medical condition which would render the applicant incompetent to perform the duties of the qualified rating(s) (other than lifeboatman), the applicant may be required to submit the results of an examination by a licensed physician or physician assistant that meets the requirements for originally obtaining the rating(s).

(3) An applicant who has lost sight in one eye may renew a merchant mariner's document with qualified ratings, provided the applicant is qualified in all other respects and that the visual acuity in the remaining eye passes the test required in § 10.205(d) of this chapter.

(e) *Special circumstances—*(1) *Reissuance after expiration, Period of grace.* Except as provided in this paragraph, a merchant mariner's document may not be renewed more than 12 months after it has expired. To obtain a reissuance of a merchant mariner's document expired more than 12 months, an applicant shall comply with the requirements of paragraph (f) of this section. When an applicant's merchant mariner's document expires during a time of service with the Armed Forces and there is no reasonable opportunity for renewal, including

by mail, this 12-month period of grace may be extended. The period of military service following the date of merchant mariner's document expiration which precluded renewal may be added to the 12 month period of grace. The 12 month period of grace, and any extension, do not affect the expiration date of the document. A merchant mariner's document, and any endorsements that it contains, are not valid for use after the expiration date.

(2) *Renewal in advance.* A merchant mariner's document may not be renewed more than 12 months before expiration unless it is being renewed in conjunction with a license or certificate of registry which is either due for renewal or being upgraded, or unless the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection is satisfied that special circumstances exist to justify renewal.

(3) *Renewal by mail.* (i) Applications for renewal of merchant mariner's documents by mail may be sent to any Coast Guard Regional Examination Center. The following documents must be submitted:

(A) A properly completed application on a Coast Guard furnished form, and the evaluation fee required by §12.02-18.

(B) The document to be renewed, or, if it has not expired, a photocopy of the document, including the back.

(C) A certification from a licensed physician or physician assistant in accordance with paragraph (d) of this section.

(D) Evidence of, or acceptable substitute for, sea service in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section.

(ii) The open-book exercise, if required, may be administered through the mail.

(4) *Concurrent renewal of merchant mariner's documents, and licenses, or certificates of registry.* An applicant for concurrent renewal of more than one merchant mariner credential shall satisfy the individual renewal requirements and pay the applicable fees required by §§12.02-18 and 10.109 of this chapter for each merchant mariner's document, license, or certificate of registry being renewed.

(f) *Reissuance of expired merchant mariner's documents.* (1) Whenever an applicant applies for reissuance of a

merchant mariner's document endorsed with qualified rating(s) more than 12 months after expiration, in lieu of the requirements of paragraph (c) of this section the applicant shall demonstrate continued professional knowledge for each qualified rating for which reissuance is sought by completing a course approved for this purpose or, by passing the complete examination for each rating, or by passing the examination for a related license required by §10.209(f)(1) of this chapter. The fees listed in §§12.02-18 and 10.109 apply to these examinations.

(2) A merchant mariner's document without any qualified rating endorsements that has been expired more than 12 months shall be reissued in the same manner as a current merchant mariner's document. There are no additional requirements for reissuing merchant mariner's documents without qualified ratings that have been expired more than 12 months.

(g) *Inactive document renewal.* (1) Applicants for renewal of merchant mariner's documents that are endorsed with qualified ratings, who are unwilling or otherwise unable to meet the requirements of paragraphs (c) or (d) of this section may renew the merchant mariner's document, with the following restrictive endorsement placed on the document: "Continuity only; service under document prohibited." Holders of merchant mariner's documents with this *continuity endorsement* may have the prohibition rescinded at any time by satisfying the renewal requirements in paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section and §12.02-9(f) of this part.

(2) Applications for renewal of a document with the continuity endorsement must include:

(i) The document to be renewed, or, if it is unexpired, a photocopy of the document including the back and,

(ii) A signed statement from the applicant attesting to an awareness of the restriction to be placed on the renewed document and of the requirements for rescinding the continuity endorsement.

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